

# Big Book Names & Dates

## From the First 188 Pages of the Big Book

### PREFACE 2ED

- xv – **Bill Wilson & Dr. Bob** during a talk between a NY stockbroker & Akron physician (they first met on 5/12/35)
- xvi – **Ebby Thacher** alcoholic friend in contact with Oxford Group
- xvi – **Dr. Silkworth** (named) NY specialist in alcoholism
- xvi – **Bill Wilson** The broker
- xvi – **Dr. Bob** the Akron physician
- xvii – **Bill Dotson** AA#3 (sober date was 6/26/35, Bill Wilson & Dr. Bob first visited him on 6/28/35)
- xviii – **Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick** (named) noted clergyman
- xviii – **Fulton Oursler** (named) editor of Liberty
- xviii – **John Rockefeller Jr.** (named) gave dinner
- xviii – **Jack Alexander** (named) wrote Saturday Evening Post article
- xix – **Traditions** all Twelve Traditions mentioned
- xx – **recovery rate from 1939-1955** Of alcoholics who came to AA & really tried, 50% got sober at once & remained that way; 25% sobered up after some relapses, and among the remainder, those who stayed on with AA showed improvement
- xxvii – **9 years experience** Dr. Silkworth had 9 years of experience with alcoholics & drug addicts when he wrote this
- xxvii – **Bill Wilson** one of the leading contributors of this book
- xxxi – **Hank Parkhurst** man brought in to be treated for chronic alcoholism
- xxxi – **Fitz Mayo** another case, had hid in a barn

### BILL'S STORY (BILL WILSON)

- 1 – **Winchester Cathedral** Bill Wilson has a spiritual experience ("Here I stood on the edge of the abyss into which thousands were falling that very day. A feeling of despair settled down on me - where was He - why did He not come - and suddenly in that moment of darkness, He was there. I felt an all-enveloping, comforting, powerful presence. Tears stood in my eyes, and as I looked about, I saw on the faces of others nearby, that they too had glimpsed the great reality.")
- 1 – **Thomas Thetcher** an old tombstone (the name of the Hampshire Grenadier)
- 1 – **a special token** Upon leaving France the men of his [Bill Wilson's] battery paid him special honor. His letter of January 3, 1919, read: "Quite a touching thing happened yesterday. The men presented Captain Sackville and me each with a watch, chain and ring. The whole battery was lined up, and I tell you it was equal to promotion and decoration by J. J. Pershing himself! Coming as it did from a clear sky, it was quite overwhelming. Wouldn't have changed insignia with a brigadier general. It means so much more

### DOCTOR'S OPINION

- (was page 1 in the first edition of the Big Book)
- xxv-xxxii **Dr. William D. Silkworth** well known doctor (worked at Towns Hospital, N.Y.C.)
- xxv – **Bill Wilson** patient he regarded as hopeless

- than promotion. Insofar as I know, we are the only people in the regiment who have been so honored. I'm sure you will be as happy and proud as I am." which had inspired such awe in me as a lad
- 4 – **Penick & Ford** XYZ-32 (stock) (Penick & Ford is a corn products company, it went from 52 to 32 in 1 day)
- 4 – **Dick Johnson** friend in Montreal (worked at Greenshields & Co., a brokerage house)
- 4 – **1930** By the following spring
- 4 – **Macy's** wife (Lois) work in dept. store
- 5 – **A. Wheeler & F. Winans** 1932 formed group to buy bender - chance vanished
- 5 – **written sweet promises** Promise followed empty promise. On October 20, 1928, Bill wrote in the family Bible, the most sacred place he knew: 'To my beloved wife that has endured so much, let this stand as evidence of my pledge to you that I have finished with drink forever.' By Thanksgiving Day of that year he had written, 'My strength is renewed a thousandfold in my love for you,' In January 1929, he added, 'To tell you once more that I am finished with it. I love you.' None of those promises, however, carried the anguish Bill expressed in an undated letter to Lois: 'I have failed again this day. That I should continue to even try to do right in the grand manner is perhaps a great foolishness. Righteousness simply does not seem to be in me. Nobody wishes it more than I. Yet no one flouts it more often.' Again, he wrote a promise to his wife in the family Bible: 'Finally and for a lifetime, thank God for your love.' The promise was dated September 3, 1930. Like those that had preceded it, it was not kept. That was the last of the Bible promises.
- 6-7 – doctor came with sedative, next day drinking gin & sedative
- 7 – **early spring 1934** I was forty pounds under weight
- 7 – **Dr. L. Strong & Dr. Emily** brother-in-law (husband of sister Dorothy) & mother put him in Towns Hospital
- 7 – **Dr. Silkworth** met kind doctor explained ill, body & mind
- 7 – **Summer, 1934** After a time I returned to the hospital
- 8 – **11/11/34** Armistice Day 1934
- 8-12 – **Ebby Thacher** old school friend
- 9 – **Shep C, Rowland H, Cebra G** two? (three) men appeared in court (Shep Cornell, Rowland Hazzard & Cebra Graves) August 1934
- 9 – **chartered an airplane** January 1929, from Albany
- N.Y. to newly opened Manchester Vt. 10 **Fayette Griffith** (Bill's) grandfather 10 **Winchester Cathedral** (see page 1) 12 **the Cathedral** Winchester Cathedral (see page 1)
- 13 – **12/11/34** At the hospital I was separated from alcohol for the last time (Bill was admitted to the hospital at 2:38PM and he is 39 years old)
- 13 – **Ebby & Shep Cornell** schoolmate visited at hosp with friend
- 14 – **Dr. Silkworth** friend, the doctor
- 14 – **12/14/34** God's impact on Bill is sudden & profound, he calls Silky & describes what just happened, this spiritual experience as THE result of the work he did on pages 13 & 14 were all done when Bill had 3 days of sobriety or less!
- 14 – **Ebby** friend emphasized
- 16 – **Bill C.** committed suicide in Bill & Lois's home after having stolen & sold about \$700 worth of their clothes and luggage (a lawyer, stayed with them almost a year, died 1936)
- 16 – **36 years sober, age 75** Bill W., co-founder of AA, died January 24, 1971
- THERE IS A SOLUTION**
- 21 – **mostly from Bill's story** Here is the fellow who has been puzzling you...
- 26 – **Rowland Hazard** certain American Business man -treated by Dr. Carl Jung (1931) & joined the Oxford Group in February 1934
- 26 – **Freud & Adler** consulted best known American psychiatrists (Freud was sick & Adler was

booked up so Rowland ended up working with Jung)

26 – **Dr. Carl Jung** (named) European psychiatrist

28 – **William James** (named) American psychologist who wrote "Varieties of Religious Experience"

#### MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM

32-3 – A man of thirty (On page 123 of Richard Peabody's 1931 book "The Common Sense of Drinking", Peabody briefly mentions an unknown man who gave up drinking until he had made his fortune five years later. Resuming "moderate" drinking, he was soon back in his

alcoholic difficulties, losing his money in two or three years and dying of alcoholism a few years after that. This anecdotal account was probably the germ idea for this story)

35-7 – **Ralph Furlong** a friend we shall call Jim (Ralph is the author of the story "Another Prodigal Son" which only appeared in the first edition of the Big Book)

37-8 – jay walker story

39-43 – Harry Brick Fred

43 – **Dr. Percy Poliak** staff member world-renowned hospital (Bellevue Hospital, N.Y.)

#### WE AGNOSTICS

50 – **Alfred E. Smith** "celebrated American statesman" (four time governor of New York and unsuccessful first Roman Catholic presidential candidate.)

51 – **Wright brothers** (named) first successful flight 1903

51 – **Professor Langley** Samuel P. Langley, flying machine landed in Potomac - 1903 project for War Dept.

52 – **Wright brothers** (named) built a machine that could fly

55 – people who proved that man could never fly

56 – **Fitz Mayo** the minister's son

56 – **Bill Wilson** approached by an alcoholic

#### HOW IT WORKS

##### INTO ACTION

76 – **Book of James 2:20,26** Faith without works is dead

79 – man we know was remarried

80 – **Oxford Group member** he accepted sum of money from business rival - explained in church

##### Working With Others

101 – **Eskimo** running away from drinking to Greenland Ice cap

#### TO WIVES

##### FAMILY AFTERWARD

124 – Henry Ford (named)

133 – one of the many doctors

135 – **Earl Treat** one of our friends is a heavy smoker and coffee drinker

#### TO EMPLOYERS

*(chapter was written by Hank Parkhurst)*

136 – **Hank Parkhurst** member who spent life in world of big business

136 – Mr. B.

137 – one of the best salesmen

137 – man who hung himself

138 – **Frank Winans?** officer of one of largest banks in America

138 – **Bob E. or Rowland H.?** an executive of the same bank

140 – **Dr. Edward Cowles?** Chicago doctor with spinal fluid theory of alcoholics (see [www.eskimo.com/~burked/history/cowles.html](http://www.eskimo.com/~burked/history/cowles.html))

141 – **Standard Oil New Jersey** "if my company" (that Hank Parkhurst worked for)

148 – vice-president of large industrial concern

149 – **Honor Dealers Co.** I own a little company (an automobile polish distributorship (see page 246 & 248)

149-50 – Bill Wilson & Jim Burwell two alcoholic employees

### VISION FOR YOU

- 151 – Bill's former Higher Power King Alcohol
- 151 – **Four Horsemen** (named) Terror,  
Bewilderment, Frustration, Despair -  
Revelations 6:2-8 war, famine, pestilence,  
and death personified the four plagues of  
mankind
- 153 – **Bill Wilson** one of our numbers made a  
journey
- 153 – **Akron, OH.** a certain western city
- 153 – **National Rubber Machinery** business (of that  
trip) involved in proxy fight
- 154 – **Akron, Ohio** in a strange place (had to have  
that one)
- 154 – The Merry Man Tavern an attractive bar
- 154 – **Mayflower Hotel** paced a hotel lobby
- 154 – **Reverend Walter Tunks** clergyman he phoned  
(Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in  
Akron)
- 155 – "the old Episcopal Church" church selected at  
random
- 155 – **Dr. Bob** resident near nadir of alcoholic  
despair
- 155 – **AMA convention** went on a roaring bender  
(Traymore Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ)
- 156 – **around 6/17/35** He (Dr. Bob) has not had a  
drink since. (It is generally stated that Dr.  
Bob's sobriety date and the founding date of  
AA is 6/10/35, but recent facts around Dr.  
Bob's last drink indicate that this date is  
closer to a week or so later.)
- 156 – **Mrs. Hall/Akron City Hosp** head nurse of  
local hospital
- 156-8 – **Bill Dotson** real corker, none too  
promising, future AA, lawyer
- 158 – **6/26/35** He (Bill Dotson) never drank again.
- 158 – **Ernie Galbraith - Akron** devil may care  
young fellow
- 159 – **Bill Wilson** our friend of the hotel lobby  
incident
- 159 – **Dr. Bob, Bill D, Ernie G** leaving behind his  
first acquaintance, the lawyer and the devil-  
may-care chap

- 159 – Archie T, Bill/Bob G (Salesman), Bill Van H,  
Dr. Bob, Charlie S, Dick S (AA#7), Ernie G,  
Harry Z, Jim S (Writer), Joe D (AA #5),  
Marie B, May B & Tom L/Jim L, Paul S,  
Ralph F, Wally G, Walter B - all 17 have  
stories in 1st edition. Additionally, Phil S  
(AA#5), Bill V, J.D.H., Bob E, Ken A were  
sober by 1937. Some may go with p.161. A  
year and 6 months later these 3 succeeded  
with 7 more (puts this early 1937)
- 160 – T. Henry & Clarace Williams One man and  
his wife
- 161 – **Cleveland, OH.** community 30 miles away
- 161 – **Lloyd T, Clarence S, Charlie J.** (see names  
from pg. 159) has 15 fellows of AA
- 161 – **New York** eastern city
- 162 – **Towns Hospital, NYC** well known hospital for  
treatment of alcohol & drugs
- 162 – **Bill Wilson** member there 6 years ago
- 162 – **Dr. Silkworth** doctor in attendance
- 162 – eastern city NYC
- 162 – western friends Ohio
- 162 – New York, Akron/Cleveland our two large  
centers
- 163 – **Hank Parkhurst** AA member living in a large  
community (Montclair, NJ)
- 163 – **Dr. Howard** prominent psychiatrist (of  
Montclair, NJ/Chief Psychiatrist for the State  
of NJ)
- 163 – **Dr. Russell Blaisdell** chief psychiatrist of a  
large public hospital (Rockland State  
Hospital in NY)

### DOCTOR BOB'S NIGHTMARE

- Dr. Bob Smith
- 171 – **Sister Ignatia** (named) At St. Thomas  
Hospital, Dr. Bob was well assisted  
beginning in August 1939 (along with Dr.  
Bob's office girl Lillian)
- 171 – **St. Johnsbury, VT.** I was born (8/8/1879) in a  
small New England village
- 171 – Judge & Mrs. Walter Perrin Smith Dr. Bob's  
father & mother

- 172 – **St. Johnsbury Academy** Dr. Bob graduates from high school 1898
- 172 – **Dartmouth College** one of the best colleges in the country (in Hanover, N.H., graduated 1902)
- 173 – **Univ. of Michigan** entering one of the largest universities in the country (1905)
- 174 – **Rush Medical Univ.** another of the leading universities of the country (near Chicago, Ill., received medical degree 1910)
- 174 – **Akron, OH.** western city
- 174 – **1912** I opened an office downtown
- 174-5 local sanitarium
- 175 – **Scylla and Charybdis** (named) (mythology: Strait of Messina-Big rock with monster (Scylla) one side, whirlpool (Charybdis) on other. Odysseus managed to navigate through) translated: "between a rock & a hard place"
- 175 – **1/16/19 - 12/5/33** Eighteenth Amendment (Prohibition)
- 176 – **?** hide out in one of the clubs
- 176 – **?** registering at a hotel
- 176 – **Anne Smith** my wife (Anne & Dr. Bob went out together for 17 years before they were married)
- 177 – **Wallace Beery/Tugboat Annie** (named) play or movie involving a drinking man
- 178 – **Oxford Group** crowd of people -their poise, health and happiness (Dr. Bob got involved with the O.G. in 1933 & separated himself from them Nov. or Dec. 1939)
- 179 – **Henrietta Sieberling** a lady called up my wife
- 179 – 5/12/35 We entered her house at exactly five o'clock
- 179 – **AMA Convention** meeting of a national society (Traymore Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ; June 10-14, Monday-Friday, 1935)
- 179 – nurse Lily/Cuyahoga Falls I woke up at a friend's house, town near home
- 179 – **Bill Wilson** my newly made friend
- 179 – **Bill Wilson** meets a friend of hers 181 **11/16/50**  
Dr. Bob died on 11/16/50, he was 55 years old, he had 20 years sober